



NEWS RELEASE

**STATE BOARD
OF EQUALIZATION**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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YEE RELEASES TAXABLE SALES FOR FIRST QUARTER 2005

Betty T. Yee, Acting Member of the State Board of Equalization (BOE), today released taxable sales figures for the first quarter of 2005. Taxable sales in California rose in the first quarter of 2005, marking the eleventh consecutive increase in quarterly growth. Transactions subject to sales and use tax totaled \$119.4 billion during the first quarter of 2005, an increase of \$5.5 billion or 4.8 percent over the first quarter of 2004. For the first time in three years, taxable sales increased slower than personal income, which rose by 6.3 percent.

In constant dollar terms, taxable sales increased by 3.0 percent over the same quarter of 2004. The California Taxable Sales Deflator measured an inflation rate of 1.7 percent for the first quarter of 2005, below the California Price Index quarterly measured rate of 3.3 percent.

Gains in taxable sales were widespread across the retail sector statewide. Total retail sales climbed to \$83.7 billion, 4.5 percent over the same period in 2004. Retailers of durable goods saw a 1.9 percent increase, while non-durable goods increased by 7.3 percent.

Durable goods categories saw mixed levels of growth. Household and home furnishings store sales increased 6.8 percent to \$3.9 billion during the first quarter. New car dealers posted taxable sales of \$14.4 billion, a 2.3 percent increase over the same period of 2004.

Sales of building materials fell to \$7.6 billion, a 7.7 percent drop from the first quarter of 2004. Although this is the first decline in building material sales since 1995, the lower total is consistent with a 2.3 percent decline in residential building permits during the same time period.

Despite a small drop in gasoline consumption, service station sales grew by 11.2 percent over the same period of 2004 to reach a total of \$8 billion. Gasoline sales declined 1.6 percent, marking the first drop since the final quarter of 2001. Californians bought 3.8 billion gallons in the first quarter of 2005 at an average price of \$2.017 per gallon, which was 12.9 percent higher than the average price for the same first quarter of 2004.

Taxable sales by service industry businesses totaled \$5.2 billion, dropping just over one percent from the same quarter in 2004. All other outlets such as manufacturing and wholesale businesses saw their taxable sales improve by 7.0 percent to reach a total of \$30.4 billion.

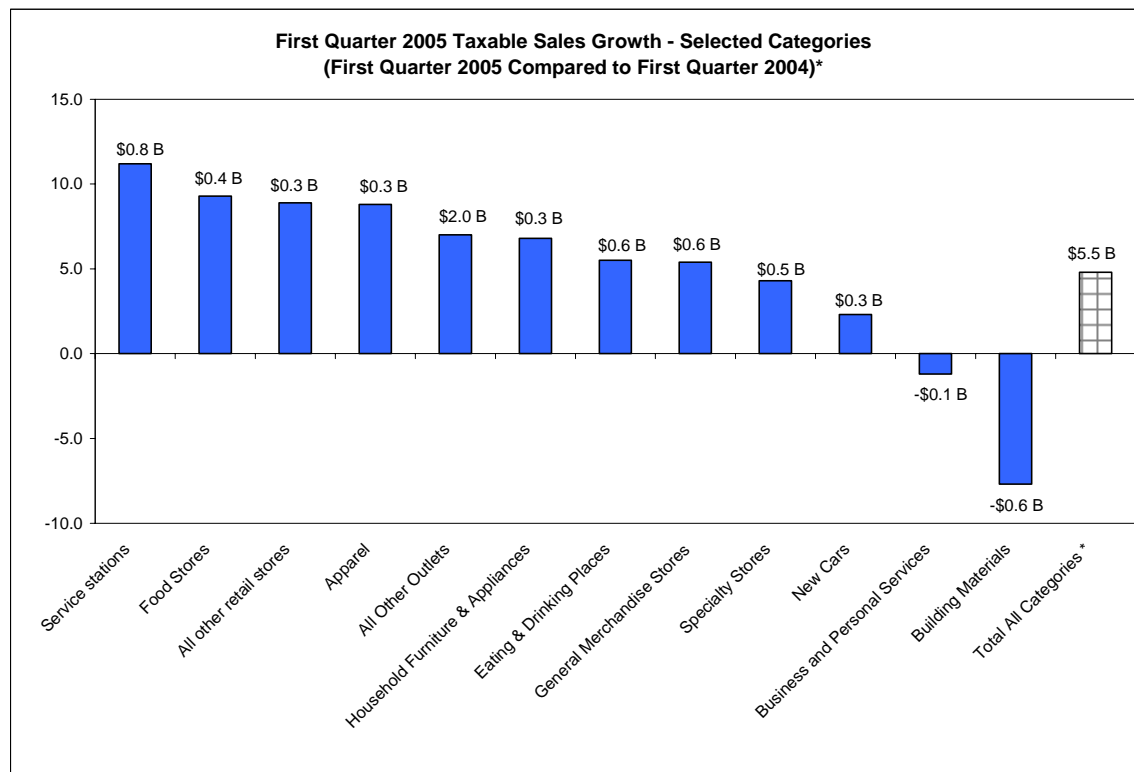
Acting Board Member Betty T. Yee, of San Francisco, assumed the First District seat on the Board of Equalization in 2004.

The five-member Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The Board collects almost \$50 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and plays a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes.

Other Board Members include Bill Leonard of Sacramento/Ontario, Second District; Claude Parrish of

Long Beach, Third District; Chairman John Chiang of Los Angeles, Fourth District and State Controller Steve Westly.

2005 Taxable Sales: <http://www.boe.ca.gov/news/tsalescont05.htm>



* This chart highlights specific categories, but is not all inclusive. Please see links above for other figures.

